

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW VOLE FROM EASTERN
SIBERIA.*

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A small *Microtus* taken at Plover Bay, East Siberia, has remained unidentified in the United States National Museum for more than thirty years. It differs from any of the Asiatic species of which I can find descriptions, and may be known as :

***Microtus tshuktshorum* sp. nov.**

Type, ♀ adult (in alcohol), No. $\frac{8419}{37610}$, United States National Museum, collected at Plover Bay, East Siberia, by Lt. Dawson (received in 1866).

General characters.—Most like *Microtus kamtschaticus* (Polyakoff), from Petropaulski, Kamchatka, but smaller; skull with shorter nasals, less perforated palate, and much smaller angular process of the mandible (in this character resembling *M. kadiacensis*).

Ears.—Except for their very small size—they are much overtopped by the surrounding fur—the ears show no characters of importance.

Feet.—The feet are similar to those of *M. arvalis*. Palms with five tubercles, all well developed. Soles with five large tubercles and a rudimentary sixth.

Fur and color.—The fur is remarkably soft and long, some of the hairs on the back reaching a length of nearly 20 mm. After its long immersion in alcohol the fur has probably lost all trace of its original color. It is now dull chestnut on the back, soiled yellowish white on the belly.

Skull.—The skull of *Microtus tshuktshorum* is small and rounded, little ridged for muscular attachment. In general form it agrees closely with that of *M. kamtschaticus*, but the nasal bones are very noticeably shorter (5.8 mm. in *M. tshuktshorum*, as opposed to a range of from 6.8 to 7.8 in

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† Tshuktskorum, Tschuktski, a tribe of natives in eastern Siberia.

seven skulls of *M. kamtschaticus*), and the palate differs notably from that of any of the specimens of *M. kamtschaticus* in the small size and insignificant number of foramina immediately in front of the lateral bridges. As a result the bridges are not distinguishable. The mandible is conspicuously more slender than that of *M. kamtschaticus*, and the articular and angular processes are very noticeably weaker. In this respect *M. tschuktschorum* shows an approach to *M. arvalis* of Europe, and an even closer resemblance to *M. kadiacensis*.

Teeth as in *M. kamtschaticus*.

Measurements.—Total length, 113; tail vertebræ; 29; pencil, 8; hind foot (with claws), 19; ear from meatus, 10; ear from crown, 8. Skull: greatest length, 23.8; basal length, 23; basilar length, 21.6; zygomatic breadth, 13; interorbital constriction, 4; mastoid breadth, 12; palatal length, 12.4; diastema, 7.8; nasals, 5.8; incisive foramen, 4; mandible, 14.8; maxillary tooth row (alveoli), 6.4; mandibular tooth row, 6.